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FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7104
INFO RUCNFUR/DARFUR COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
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RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE PRIORITY
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC PRIORITY
RHMFISS/HQ USAFRICOM STUTTGART GE PRIORITY

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 NDJAMENA 000290

SIPDIS
SENSITIVE

STATE FOR AF/C, S/USSES - SE GRATION
NSC FOR GAVIN
LONDON FOR POL - LORD
PARIS FOR POL - KANEDA
ADDIS ABABA ALSO FOR AU

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: GOC POISED TO ACT ON GTIP RECOMMENDATIONS

REF: NDJAMENA 258

SUMMARY

1. (SBU) The GOC's inter-ministerial committee to address the recommendations in the USG action plan on trafficking in persons met July 14 with local human rights organizations and UNICEF representatives. The participations agreed on a collaborative way forward regarding investigations of abuses and agreed that existing Penal Code Article 152 provided authority to prosecute alleged traffickers. Discussions to ensure UNICEF access to military camps were less successful despite the Ministry of Defense representative's commitment to coordinate with NGOs. The UN convention regarding transnational crime and the associated protocol to protect women and child passed in parliament and was ratified by Chadian President Deby. Post is encouraged by the GOC's efforts in the short term but believes that NGO access to military installations will require pressure by the most senior GOC officials. END SUMMARY.

2. (SBU) The Ministry of Human Rights, represented by Secretary General Djimet Arabi, led a four-hour inter-ministerial discussion July 14 with local human rights organizations to address the recommendations in the USG trafficking in persons action plan. Representatives of the ministries of Labor, Social Affairs, Justice, and Defense participated along with several human rights organizations and UNICEF officials. The meeting was marked by frank discussion, agreement on both sides for government - civil society cooperation, and thoughtful suggestions to address USG recommendations.

COORDINATION TO PURSUE PROSECUTIONS

2. (SBU) The participants agreed on a framework of coordination for investigating allegations of trafficking and the government officials openly received human rights groups' accounts of alleged incidents of trafficking. Further, government and civil society representatives agreed that existing Penal Code Article 152 allowed for prosecution of traffickers. The GOC, led by the Ministry of Justice, committed to train magistrates and judicial police on applying Article 152 in this context with plans to commence training in the next few months.

DOUBTS ABOUT MILITARY CAMP VISITS

¶3. (SBU) While the Ministry of Defense official admitted that children were employed in non-combat roles in the Chadian National Army (ANT) and expressed his willingness to coordinate with NGO groups, including UNICEF, regarding military camps visits, but left the impression that he would undertake the effort soon enough to show improvement in Chad's TIP performance and so avoid sanctions.

RATIFICATION OF UN CONVENTIONS

¶4. (SBU) The National Assembly voted July 10 and July 14 to authorize Chadian President Deby to ratify both the United Nations Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime and the Additional Protocol to Prevent, Suppress, and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Against Women and Children. President Deby ratified both UN documents on July 14.

COMMENT

¶5. (SBU) The GOC's sincere efforts and the open, collaborative spirit of the July 14 meeting were encouraging first steps to address the issue of trafficking in Chad. While we anticipate that the GOC will be able to demonstrate

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positive progress in the time frame of the action plan, we are not convinced that all elements of the plan will be successfully implemented. Post believes that pressure by the most senior levels of the GOC to effect UNICEF visits to the military camps in a timely manner is necessary and requests that such a message be conveyed to Minister Faki in his remaining meetings at the Department. Separately, we will forward copies of the presidential decrees regarding the UN convention and additional protocol when they are received.
END COMMENT.

¶6. (U) Minimize considered.
NIGRO